

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flexibly supported printer comprising:
a printer; and
a flexible support supporting said printer;
wherein movement of internal components of said printer causes said printer to move by flexing said flexible support.
2. The printer of claim 1, wherein said internal components include a print head carriage.
3. The printer of claim 1, further comprising:
a body of said printer; and
a transparent cover releasably mounted on said body of said printer;
wherein said transparent cover is configured to hold a printed sheet on said body of said printer with said printed sheet being visible through said transparent cover.
4. The printer of claim 3, wherein said printed sheet comprises a printed face.
5. The printer of claim 1, further comprising a tongue connected to said moving internal components such that movement of said components results in movement of said tongue.
6. The printer of claim 1, wherein said flexible support comprises one or more cables suspending said printer.
7. The printer of claim 6, wherein one or more of said cables comprise a spring.

8. The printer of claim 1, wherein said flexible support comprises one or more flexible legs.

9. The printer of claim 8, wherein each said flexible leg comprises a foot and a spring.

10. The printer of claim 9, wherein said printer comprises a plurality of flexible legs, with the springs of at least two of said flexible legs having different spring constants.

11. The printer of claim 9, wherein said flexible support comprises three of said flexible legs arranged in a triangle.

12. The printer of claim 11, wherein a front two of said three flexible legs have springs of a first spring constant and a rear leg of said three flexible legs has a spring has a second spring constant, said second spring constant being greater than said first spring constant.

13. The printer of claim 9, wherein said foot is shaped like a shoe.

14. The printer of claim 9, wherein said foot is shaped like a human foot.

15. The printer of claim 9, wherein said printer comprises a plurality of flexible legs, wherein a relative positioning of said flexible legs is adjustable to control movement of said printer on said plurality of flexible legs.

16. The printer of claim 15, wherein said printer comprises hook or loop fastener on an underside thereof, with each of said flexible legs comprising a corresponding hook or loop fastener pad for removably securing that leg on said underside of said printer.

17. The printer of claim 1, further comprising a speaker for outputting audio.

18. The printer of claim 17, wherein said audio is correlated to said movement of said printer and flexing of said flexible support.

19. The printer of claim 17, further comprising a motion detector, said speaker outputting said audio in response to an output from said motion detector.

20. The printer of claim 1, further comprising lights disposed in said printer, wherein said lights are selectively lit in correlation with movement of said printer and flexing of said flexible support.

21. The printer of claim 20, further comprising a motion detector, said lights being lit selectively in response to output from said motion detector.

22. A method of operating a printer, said method comprising:
flexibly supporting said printer with a flexible support; and
causing said printer to move by flexing said flexible support in response to acceleration of internal components of said printer.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said internal components include a print head carriage.

24. The method of claim 22, further comprising disposing a printed sheet on a body of said printer to decorate said printer.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising securing said printed sheet under a transparent cover releasably mounted on said body of said printer.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein said printed sheet comprises a printed face.

27. The method of claim 1, further comprising wagging a tongue connected to said moving internal components, said wagging being caused by movement of said internal components.

28. The method of claim 22, wherein flexibly supporting said printer comprises suspending said printer using one or more cables attached to said printer.

29. The method of claim 22, wherein flexibly supporting said printer comprises supporting said printer on one or more flexible legs.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein each of said flexible legs comprises a foot and a spring.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein said flexible support comprises three of said flexible legs arranged in a triangle.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein a front two of said three flexible legs have springs of a first spring constant and a rear leg of said three flexible legs has a spring with a second spring constant, said second spring constant being greater than said first spring constant.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein said printer comprises a plurality of flexible legs, said method further comprising selectively adjusting a relative positioning of said flexible legs to control movement of said printer on said flexible legs.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising providing one of a hook or loop fastener on an underside of said printer and one of a hook and loop pad

on each flexible leg for removably securing that leg on said underside of said printer.

35. The method of claim 22, further comprising outputting audio with a speaker of said printer, said audio being correlated to said movement of said printer and flexing of said flexible support.

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising detecting motion with a motion detector and outputting said audio in response to output from said motion detector.

37. The method of claim 22, further comprising selectively lighting lights on said printer, wherein said lights are selectively lit in correlation with movement of said printer and flexing of said flexible support.

38. The method of claim 37, further comprising detecting motion with a motion detector and selectively lighting said lights in response to output from said motion detector.

39. A printing system comprising:
a printer comprising means for producing a printed output; and
means for flexibly supporting said printer;
wherein movement of said means for producing a printed output within said printer causes said printer to move by flexing said means for flexibly supporting said printer.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein said means for producing a printed output comprise a print head on a print head carriage.

41. The system of claim 39, further comprising means for securing a printed sheet on a body of said printer to decorate said printer.

42. The system of claim 39, wherein said means for flexibly supporting said printer comprise one or more cables suspending said printer.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein one or more of said cables comprise a spring.

44. The system of claim 39, wherein said means for flexibly supporting said printer comprise one or more flexible legs on which said printer rests.

45. The system of claim 44, further comprising means for adjusting a relative positioning of said flexible legs to control movement of said printer on said flexible legs.

46. A printer driver stored as computer-readable instructions on a medium for storing computer-readable instructions, said printer driver, when executed on a host computer, causing said computer to generate a print job, wherein said print job causes some movement of a print head carriage in a flexibly supported printer that results in movement of said flexibly supported printer and flexing of the printer's flexible support and which movement is not needed to produce a printed output.

47. The printer driver of claim 46, said printer driver further transmitting audio data to said flexibly supported printer.

48. The printer driver of claim 47, further comprising selecting said audio based on user input.

49. Firmware for a flexibly supported printer, said firmware being stored as computer-readable instructions on a medium for storing computer-readable instructions, wherein said firmware, when executed on a printer, causes movement of a print head carriage without doing any printing so as to cause said printer to move by flexing the printer's flexible support.

50. The firmware of claim 49, wherein said movement of said print head carriage is performed prior to commencing a print job.

51. The firmware of claim 49, wherein said movement of said print head carriage is performed subsequent to completing a print job.

52. The firmware of claim 49, further comprising selectively driving lights on said printer in response to said movement of said printer.

53. The firmware of claim 49, further comprising selectively outputting audio by driving a speaker in response to said movement of said printer.